

## ***Mission***

The United States Department of State, Art in Embassies Program (AIEP) was created to promote national pride and a sense of distinct cultural identity of America's art and its artist. This innovative program traverses cultural and language barriers by providing original works of art by U.S. citizens for the representational rooms of U.S. ambassadorial residences worldwide.

AIEP exhibitions serve a dual purpose: first, to provide a visual experience and tangible example of the depth and quality of our nation's artistic heritage, and second, to enhance the physical beauty and representational functionality of embassy residences. U.S. ambassadors take great pride in these exhibitions and their multi-functional means of outreach to educational, cultural, business, and diplomatic communities.

Works of art exhibited through the program encompass a variety of media and styles, ranging from 18<sup>th</sup> century colonial portraiture to contemporary conceptual art (or abstract art). The thousands of guests that visit U.S. embassy residences each year have a rare opportunity to learn about our great nation, its customs, values, and aspirations through the international lines of communication that we call "Art".

The Art in Embassies Program is proud to lead this global effort to support the artistic accomplishments of the people of the United States.

## ***Process***

Collaboration between the ambassador and the Art in Embassies Program curator determines the development and scope of the exhibition and the works of art to be included. This joint effort insures that the individual exhibition reflects the ambassador's interests and vision, while remaining attentive to the host country's cultural and political environments.

AIEP has achieved its unparalleled success through extensive lending agreements with museums, institutions, galleries, corporate and private collectors, and artists. Loans are requested for a period of three years. Consolidation, crating, shipping and insurance coverage is funded by the Department of State, and coordinated by AIEP registrars and museum specialists in conjunction with embassy staff.

## ***Lender/Donor Recognition***

The exhibition catalog is one of the most productive cultural and educational tools for use by U.S. ambassadors. It documents the exhibition, promotes the artists, and acknowledges the generosity of the lenders. Catalogs typically feature an introductory statement by the ambassador with an accompanying photograph, a paragraph about the Arts in Embassies Program, an image and description of each work of art, artist biographical summaries, and lender credits.

Wall labels are placed alongside the installed works of art, and each lender and donor receives formal acknowledgement from the ambassador and the director of the Art in Embassies Program

## **Becoming An AIEP Partner**

Continuing expansion of AIEP's lender base is the foundation for its ongoing success. The Program's greatest strength is assistance from lenders throughout the diverse communities and regions of our country. These lenders become partners in acknowledging and supporting the achievements of the United States' visual artists.

To be considered for participation by the Arts in Embassies Program Curatorial Staff, (**Do Not** mail slides) Mail photographs of works that are available for loan. Include title, dimensions, medium, artist's name, and biographical data. Materials should be sent to:

**Art in Embassies Program  
M/OBO/OM/ART  
Department of State  
Washington, DC 20522-0611**

**703-875-4202**

**<http://aiep.state.gov>**

“There are many ways to conduct diplomacy. The Art in Embassies Program is a special way. Works of American art, on display around the world, share our beloved country, our values, our history, our culture, our deep beliefs in freedom of expression and in the creative power of the individual. Each work of art becomes a diplomatic instrument, each artist an ambassador. It is an outstanding program.”

*Colin Powell*  
*U.S. Secretary of State*

“It makes me proud that the National Museum of American Art participates in a program that places the best of American art in our embassies abroad. The Art in Embassies Program turns artists into ambassadors for America, and they in turn give voice to our ideals and help make friends for our country overseas.”

*Elizabeth Brown, Director*  
*Smithsonian American Art Museum*

“Our commitment to the Art in Embassies Program began years ago and we will continue to participate. Everyone involved benefits. The Program gives the artists a new opportunity to exhibit as well as giving the visitors a chance to view quality examples of American art. In the process, the gallery works with professionals who handle and exhibit the work with care.”

*Arne Glimcher, Director*  
*Pace Wildenstein Gallery, NY, NY*

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